

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the **Title** with the following amended Title:

~~OPTICAL SWITCH, DIRECTIONAL COUPLER TYPE OPTICAL MODULATOR WITH TRAVELING WAVE ELECTRODE, AND OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM~~

On **page 1**, after the Title, please add the following new heading and paragraph:

-- CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of US Application No. 10/236,341, filed September 5, 2002, now US Patent No. 6,836,573, which disclosure is incorporated herein by reference. --

On **page 5**, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 2 in its entirety, as follows:

~~A semiconductor optical modulator according to still another aspect of the present invention includes a first optical directional coupler on a semiconductor substrate; a second optical directional coupler on said semiconductor substrate; a first optical waveguide; a second optical waveguide; a wave coupling region for the first waveguide and the second waveguide between the directional couplers; a pair of traveling wave electrodes, said traveling wave electrodes having no crossover; and two sets of air bridge structures forming connections between the waveguide region and the traveling wave electrodes.~~